

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 3, 2005. Claims 1 to 10 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is still the only independent Claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The invention relates to an ink container which includes first and second engaging portions and ink supply ports all disposed substantially along a line at respective positions deviated toward one of the long edges of the bottom side of the ink container. In addition, a plurality of dimple portions are formed around the supply ports, respectively, and each of the circumferences of the dimples opens adjacent to one of the long edges.

With such a structure, the wall thickness of the casing of the ink container can be reduced in comparison to wall thickness of prior art devices, such that ink capacity can be increased, whereas possible reduction in mechanical strength of the ink container casing adjacent the supply portions can be avoided since the supply portions are provided adjacent the side surface.

As for the dimples, the feature of dimples which is partly open as defined in the claims is effective to suppress the occurrence of a so-called weld line which is formed by collapse of resin material during injection molding and may be produced when a container of a small thickness is formed.

All claims were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over two separate cases. First, Claims 1 to 8 were rejected over Claims 1 to 7, 12 to 27, 32, 33, 35 to 39, 51 and 54 to 61 of U.S. Patent 6,361,158 (hereinafter "the '158 patent"). Second, Claims 1 to 8 were rejected over Claims 1 to 15 of Application No. 10/667,314 (hereinafter "the '314 application"). These rejections are respectfully traversed. There is simply nothing in the cited claims of either the '158 patent or the '314 application that disclose or

suggest at least the features of a plurality of ink supply ports at positions deviated toward one of the long edges of the bottom side of an ink container, and a plurality of dimple portions in which the ink supply ports are formed, with the dimple portions being open adjacent to one of the long edges. Withdrawal of both of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,619,237 (Inoue). In addition, Claims 4 to 7 were rejected under § 103(a) over Inoue in view of U.S. Patent 6,776,479 (Ardito) and also over Inoue in view of U.S. Patent 6,137,512 (Higuma). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

As set forth in independent Claim 1 as amended, an ink container according to the invention comprises a casing having a substantially rectangular shape, a plurality of ink accommodating portions defined by partition in the casing, and plural ink supply ports provided for the ink accommodating portions, respectively. The ink supply ports are provided in a bottom side of the casing. First and second engaging portions are provided for engagement with a holder to which the ink container is detachably mountable. The first engaging portion, the ink supply ports, and the second engaging portion are all disposed substantially along a line at respective positions deviated towards one of long edges of the bottom side, and a plurality of dimple portions are formed around the ink supply ports, respectively, and each circumference of the dimples is open adjacent to one of the long edges.

As indicated above, deviation of the first and second engaging portions and the ink supply ports toward one of the long edges of the bottom side provides advantages, and provision of dimples around the ink supply ports provides other advantages.

Inoue has been reviewed, but is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a plurality of ink supply ports deviated towards one of long edges of a bottom side of an ink container, and a plurality of dimple portions formed around the ink supply ports with circumferences of the dimples being open adjacent to one of the long edges. The Office Action (page 4 thereof) cited to Inoue's Figures 20 and 27 in support of these features, but those drawings are not seen to disclose or to suggest any such feature, since these drawings are seen primarily to depict an ink jet cartridge and not an ink container *per se*. Figures 25 and 30c depict the ink container of Inoue, but they are not seen to disclose or to suggest the linear arrangement of ink supply ports, nor the arrangement of dimples around each respective ink supply port with the circumferences of the dimples being adjacent to one of the long edges of the ink container.

Higuma and Ardito have both been reviewed, but they are not seen to disclose or suggest the subject matter missing from Inoue. Moreover, with respect to Ardito, Ardito is not seen to be prior art to the subject application, in view of Applicants' claim to foreign priority in their Japanese priority applications. In support of this claim, submitted herewith are sworn translations of each of the three priority documents. In keeping with the procedure at MPEP § 201.15, the Examiner should confirm for himself that Applicants are entitled to their date, after which he is respectfully requested to withdraw Ardito as a reference.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment. Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested. Likewise, consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 11, 2005 is also requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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